

Message Text

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ORIGIN AID-31

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NATO CAPITALS

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR DISASTER RELIEF ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

REF: NATO DOCUMENT C-M (58) 102

1. WITHIN THE USG, THE OFFICE OF THE FOREIGN DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR (FDRC) IN THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ORCHESTRATING THE RESPONSE OF USG DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES IN TAKING AND SUSTAINING RELIEF ACTION IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM DISASTER-STRICKEN NATIONS OF THE WORLD. FDRC IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR TAKING INITIATIVES IN THE AREA OF FOREIGN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS.

2. DURING THE COURSE OF AN AVERAGE YEAR, THE U.S. WILL RESPOND TO APPROXIMATELY 45 FOREIGN DISASTERS, ALTHOUGH OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT NUMBER ONLY A FEW WOULD BE OF MAGNITUDE TO REQUIRE

MASSIVE INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE. OVER THE PAST NINE YEARS SINCE FDRC WAS ESTABLISHED IN AID, THE UNITED STATES HAS RESPONDED TO 411 DISASTERS TO WHICH IT PROVIDED DOLS 1.2 BILLION IN DISASTER AID.

3. WITH RESPECT TO SPECIFIC DISASTER RELIEF EFFORTS, FDRC MAINTAINS LIAISON WITH THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR (UNDRC), THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, AND AS REQUIRED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS AND THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES. IT HOPES TO ESTABLISH A CLOSER WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER DONOR NATIONS SINCE IT IS BELIEVED THAT ONLY THROUGH SUCH LIAISON CAN WELL COORDINATED AND EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RELIEF EFFORTS BE MOUNTED WHICH WILL MINIMIZE DUPLICATIONS AND OMISSIONS WHICH HAVE CHARACTERIZED EMERGENCY INTERNATIONAL RELIEF ASSISTANCE IN THE PAST.

4. PER PARA 8 OF REF DOCUMENT, AID/FDRC IS PREPARED TO TRANSMIT TO NATO MEMBERS THE FOLLOWING: DISASTER ALERTS, SITUATION REPORTS, ASSESSMENT DATA AND INFORMATION ON ACTIONS CONTEMPLATED OR BEING TAKEN BY THE US GOVERNMENT. SINCE THIS TYPE OF INFORMATION IS NOW TRANSMITTED TO THE UNDRC, IT MIGHT BE TRANSMITTED EASILY TO NATO MEMBERS THROUGH THE NATO-WIDE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM. IF NATO MEMBERS ARE INTERESTED, THEY CAN ALSO BE PLACED ON A US GOVERNMENT MAILING LIST FOR OTHER MORE DETAILED REPORTS SUCH AS SUMMARIES OF OUR INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND ASSISTANCE IN CONNECTION WITH SPECIFIC MAJOR DISASTERS.

5. FOR USNATO: YOU SHOULD CONVEY THE PRECEDING TO THE CEP DIRECTORATE AND ADVISE US OF THEIR WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE AND COMMUNICATE THE DATA DESCRIBED IN PARA 4. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE YOUR ESTIMATE OF THE CURRENT NATO CAPABILITY TO UNDERTAKE THE FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OUTLINED IN REF DOCUMENT.

6. FOR NATO CAPITALS: YOU SHOULD CONVEY THE PRECEDING TO THE APPROPRIATE AGENCIES IN YOUR HOST GOVERNMENT AND UNCLASSIFIED

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SOLICIT FROM THEM THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

A. IDENTIFICATION OF THE HOST NATION'S FOREIGN DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR, TO INCLUDE NAME, TITLE, OFFICE IDENTIFICATION, AND STREET (MAILING) ADDRESS.

B. HOW HOST COUNTRY IS ORGANIZED FOR FOREIGN DISASTER RELIEF.

C. EXTENT OF INVOLVEMENT OF HOST NATION IN DISASTER
PREPAREDNESS.

D. INDICATION OF THEIR INTEREST IN RECEIVING INFORMATION
DETAILED ABOVE FROM FDRC.

E. INDICATION OF THEIR WILLINGNESS AT THE TIME OF A MAJOR
DISASTER TO PROVIDE FDRC WHATEVER CURRENT INFORMATION

THEY HAVE AVAILABLE ON THE SITUATION, ON RELIEF
REQUIREMENTS AND ON COMMITMENTS MADE BY THEIR
GOVERNMENTS FOR DISASTER AID TO THE STRICKEN NATION.

7. ADDRESSEES SHOULD SEND REPLIES BY AIRGRAM TO
WASHINGTON. NATO CAPITALS SHOULD SEND INFO COPY TO
USNATO.

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